### Charts and Trees in Reunion for the Mac Martha Wallace November 2024

Reunion creates nine different types of charts. You can choose the people and information you want to include and make a chart with the click of a button.

Charts are based on the information that you have already entered into Reunion. You decide who and what to include. Each type of chart can have varied layout plans and different orientations, fonts, and colors. You select these styles within the chart creator.

The key to making charts is to experiment and test the different versions. If you know that something can be done, click around, use the drop-down menus, and create a chart. If you don't like it, close it (don't save), and make a new one.

**Choose a type of chart** Begin with a couple in the Family View. From

the left sidebar, choose Charts. There are nine types. Select the type of chart you want to create. It will be created using information about the couple in the family view. There are many choices to vary the look. Here's a few notes about creating the charts, the different types of charts, and adjusting and enhancing them with printing tips at the end.



### Choose who & what to include

- marked people,
- remove duplicates,
- use privacy filtering (if you want to exclude living people),
- include preferred pictures,
- limit to one page (it may be very condensed, so consider carefully).

Choose a layout plan Try the default first. If





don't save that chart and try again. The layout drop-down menu allows you to define layouts. Go there, choose add layout, and look at all the tabs and choices to include the information that you want.

### Ancestor Chart Begins with one

person and moves backward in time showing the parents of each person in the tree. Choose the person and number of generations, and prune.

## **Descendant Chart** Shows descendants of the

source couple for a specified number of generations. Choose the person and number of generations, and *prune*. The first choice for bold children only will include only your direct line (if already bold). The other choices are similar to those for the Ancestor chart.





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# Fan ChartContains rings (depicting generations)

radiating around the center (the source person). Choose the person, number of generations, and whether to use only marked ancestors. Most other adjustments are made <u>after</u> you create the chart from *Fan>Settings*. Pay attention to the *Content* tab: try out the different *Spreads*. Check and uncheck the other boxes and see if you like what they do. Next look at the *Text* tab which lets you decide the content of the boxes and the attributes of the fonts. Often the default works just fine. The third tab is *Color*; this is your chance to go wild. Besides changing the individual box colors, the best part here is in the bottom right corner which includes



*Presets*. In that drop down, you'll see 17 more variations of the color arrangements – not just different colors, but how they are arranged on the chart.



**Relative Chart** Begins with one person and includes all of that person's blood relatives. Choose the person and number of generations up and number down. Your person will show up in the middle with his or her descendants and ancestors above and below or to the left and right, depending on the chosen orientation. Make choices for marked relatives, privacy filtering, and preferred pictures, as above. There are some new layout choices, but you can define the layout to include what you want.

Timeline Chart Bars show the

the lifespan of different people. Choose who to include. If you want to know who was living in a certain time period, check *Span*, and put in the dates for that time. Choose a name format and create. As before, you can edit and delete to make it work for you. An interesting possible addition is *Perspectives*. These



are sets of events of historical significance which will help put your ancestors in the context of their time. You can download them here:

http://www.leisterpro.com/doc/version9/perspective/perspectives.php

## Cascading Pedigree Chart A series of four- or five-generation, single-

page charts that begin with one person and move backward in time showing direct ancestors only. Choose the person, number of generations, number per page, and *prune*. If you will have more than one page, add an index. Decide on marked ancestors, preferred pictures, and remove duplicates. Look at *Box Setup* to decide what information to put in the boxes. Give your chart a title and choose your font – this time you will go straight to print. Once you have clicked print, you'll see your usual print box, but don't print yet. In the bottom left, click on PDF and Open in Preview. Then you can see if this is what you want. If not, cancel and try again. Good idea for a booklet.



**Bowtie Chart** Puts the couple in the middle with his parents on the left and hers on the right. It

resembles two ancestor charts sewn together. Choose how many

generations on each side, whether or not to include the couple's children, and pictures. Further choices can be made by defining the layout.

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Hourglass Chart Puts the couple

in the center and goes backward in time moving up from the source couple and forward in time moving down from the source couple. An hourglass chart resembles a bottom-



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to-top ancestor chart and a top-to-bottom descendant chart. Choices of pictures and layout can be made as in previous charts.



**Everybody Chart** An everybody chart shows every person that you've selected to be included in the chart. This could be your entire family file or a smaller subset of your family file.

An everybody chart is made of many smaller subcharts. Each subchart includes graphic elements - boxes and connecting lines - to depict relationships within the subchart. Relationships between subcharts are depicted using node lines, node numbers, or grid locations. Node

lines are the double-ended arrows showing that a person is found in more than one subchart. This feature makes my hair hurt.

Adjusting The title of the chart can be changed from the generic to one that you create by double-

clicking and typing a good name for your chart.

Once you have created a chart, you may want to zoom in or out to see more or less of the chart. Do this in the lower left corner.



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Experiment with the drop-down menus at the top of your chart.

## Choose an orientation An important adjustment is the *Tree>Orientation* drop

down. This allows you to try different alignments; test them— some will make your chart more readable or understandable. If you delete people at this point (this doesn't delete them from your files, just from this chart), the boxes will become spread out and may overlap. Simply redraw by going to Tree>Orientation and hit return.

**Object** This drop down can be used to change the location, size, and frame of

pictures in the boxes. Some actions require you to select a box first. Use command Z (undo) if you don't like the change!

Add colors, lines, fonts Colors within the boxes and the colors and attributes of

the fonts can be changed in the left side bar (activate the side bar by selecting a box or boxes, to select the whole chart use Command A). My favorite choices here are changing colors inside the boxes, no gradient, box outline 2 pt black, no shadow, 20 pt text. Experiment!

Within a chart To add or change the information inside a box, double click on the box and remove or add information as needed. You can even delete boxes of people that you do not want to include (this will not change the information in your main family view).





**Annotate** At this point you can add pictures, text boxes,

maps, and more around the chart you have created. For this, you can use Preview, Word, Pages, Powerpoint, Keynote, or other applications.

## Printing The number of

 $8\frac{1}{2}x11$  pages that your chart will take to print is found in the lower left.

The native format in Reunion is a boxchart which can only be opened in Reunion, so use File>Open in [Preview or graphic file]. Use Save As to save it to another folder or the desktop. Then you can print out all the pages and tape them together; you can save the chart as a pdf to print (one page) or mail to a relative (who can zoom to see the details); or you can save as JPG, PNG, or TIFF and take to FedEx for large scale printing (this may take some experimenting). Heartland Family Graphics specializes in Reunion charts. If you need a really large chart (many feet long), look at their work and see if these ideas will help: <u>https://familygraphics.com/gallery/</u> and <u>https://familygraphics.com/how-to/</u>.

There are so many different choices! This covers only the main attributes. The best suggestion is – experiment!!